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Office of Governor Doug Ducey
State Capitol
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Ducey:

I write to offer my support for the enclosed letter sent by the Environmental Protection Agency to your office requesting that the State of Arizona take immediate action to protect Arizona's water supplies from lead and copper exposure. The letter outlines a list of prudent steps the State should take to ensure proper compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule – which is a treatment technique rule under the Safe Drinking Water Act that helps safeguard drinking water supplies from lead and copper contamination.

As you know, the State of Arizona has assumed primary responsibility under the Safe Drinking Water Act for protecting our State's public water systems and drinking water supplies. It is critically important that the State government take every appropriate measure to ensure the safety of our State's water supplies.

Recent events in Flint, Michigan are a stark reminder of the damage caused when State governments do not adequately carry out their responsibility to protect drinking water supplies. Because of lead contamination, Flint's residents now face various health complications including irreversible neurological damage, behavioral problems, and kidney damage. State officials must do everything possible to make sure Arizona communities do not face a similar public health crisis.

All Arizona residents, including our tribal and rural communities, deserve access to safe, clean, and affordable water supplies for basic human needs. I look forward to working with you toward this end, and to engaging in an open public dialogue on how best to deliver clean water for all of our State's residents.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Doug Ducey
Governor of Arizona
State Capitol
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

FEB 29 2016

Dear Governor Ducey:

There is no higher priority for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) than protecting public health and ensuring the safety of our nation's drinking water. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), Arizona and most other states have the primary responsibility for the implementation and enforcement of drinking water regulations, while EPA is tasked with oversight of state efforts. Recent events in Flint, Michigan and other U.S. cities, have led to important discussions about the safety of our nation's drinking water supplies, which is why I am writing to you today.

I am asking you to join me in taking action to strengthen protection of our nation's drinking water, which is a shared responsibility involving state, tribal, local and federal governments, system owners and operators, consumers and other stakeholders. We must work together to address the broad set of challenges and opportunities we face – including in the areas of infrastructure finance and investment, science, technology, legacy and emerging contaminants, regulatory oversight, risk assessment and public engagement and education.

As part of the EPA's immediate effort to properly oversee state implementation of the Lead and Copper Rule, my staff will be meeting with every state drinking water program across the country to ensure that states are taking appropriate actions to identify and address lead action level exceedances and fully implementing and enforcing this important rule. I ask that you encourage your state agency to give this effort the highest priority, consistent with our shared commitment and partnership to address lead risks.

In the near-term, I also ask for your leadership in taking action to enhance public transparency and accountability in the implementation of the Lead and Copper Rule to assure the public that all levels of government are working together to address lead risks. By separate letter, the EPA's Office of Water has written to the head of your state primacy agency detailing our requests and recommendations. In that letter we urge enhanced efforts to provide the public with better and quicker information on risks associated with lead in drinking water and how to abate them. We also ask states to promptly inform residents of lead sample results from their homes, as well as the general public where systems are experiencing high lead levels. And we point out the

tremendous value of using public websites to disclose state lead sampling protocols and guidance, lead sampling results, and water system inventories of lead service lines. This is the most effective approach to assure the public that we are doing everything we can to work together to address lead risk, and I would ask your support to take these steps quickly.


In the coming weeks and months, we will be working with states and other stakeholders to identify strategies and actions to improve the safety and sustainability of our drinking water systems, including:

- ensuring adequate and sustained investment in, and attention to, regulatory oversight at all levels of government;
- using information technology to enhance transparency and accountability with regard to reporting and public availability of drinking water compliance data;
- leveraging additional funding sources to finance maintenance, upgrading and replacement of aging infrastructure, especially for poor and overburdened communities; and
- identifying technology and infrastructure to address both existing and emerging contaminants.

Thank you in advance for your support to ensure that we are fulfilling our joint responsibility for the protection of public health and to restore public confidence in our shared work to ensure safe drinking water for the American people. Please do not hesitate to contact me, and your staff can always contact Mark Rupp, Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Relations, at rupp.mark@epa.gov or (202) 564-7178.

As always, the EPA appreciates your leadership and engagement as a partner in our efforts to protect public health and the environment.

Sincerely,



Gina McCarthy